

VZCZCXRO1208
OO RUEHAG RUEHROV
DE RUEHDL #0048/01 0251326
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 251326Z JAN 08
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8859
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES IMMEDIATE
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DUBLIN 000048

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/25/2018
TAGS: [EUN](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KV](#) [IR](#) [IZ](#) [IS](#) [SU](#) [EI](#)
SUBJECT: IRISH VIEWS ON THE JANUARY 28-29 EU FOREIGN
MINISTERS' MEETING (GAERC)

REF: A. STATE 7679

[1](#)B. DUBLIN 43
[1](#)C. 07 STATE 171106
[1](#)D. 07 DUBLIN 903
[1](#)E. 07 DUBLIN 336

Classified By: Pol/Econ Section Chief Ted Pierce;
Reason 1.4 (B) and (D).

Summary

[1](#)1. (C) POLOFF delivered the January GAERC demarche on January 24 to Pat Kelly, European Correspondent, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). Ireland is likely to recognize Kosovo's independence quickly, and is generally sympathetic to U.S. views on the Middle East, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sudan, DRC, and Burma. Ireland and the EU's next steps in Iran will be informed by the third anticipated UNSCR. Ireland will not be reopening its Baghdad mission any time soon. End summary.

Western Balkans

[1](#)2. (C) Kelly reiterated the points made to POLOFFS by DFA Political Director Rory Montgomery on January 18 (Ref B). Ireland is likely to recognize Kosovo's independence quickly, but will want to act in concert with the EU insofar as possible. Ireland sees EU/U.S. consensus as critical to a successful outcome in Kosovo.

Iran

[1](#)3. (C) As with Kosovo, Kelly said, Ireland feels that broad and sustained international consensus is needed to secure Iranian compliance with UNSCRs. He stated that further Irish (and, indeed, EU) actions on Iran -- including possible sanctions -- will be informed by the third anticipated UNSCR.

Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

[1](#)4. (SBU) Ireland and the EU want to maintain the momentum of the Annapolis and donors' conferences, but find the establishment of new Israeli settlements counter-productive, according to Kelly. He anticipated that the GAERC will send a clear message to the Middle East: While the rocket attacks on Israel are unacceptable, it is equally unacceptable for Israel to take punitive action against the Palestinian people for the violent acts of a few. Ireland supports the goal of a two-state solution by the end of 2008, Kelly said.

Lebanon

¶15. (C) Kelly stated that Ireland's view of the situation in Lebanon dovetails with that of the U.S. He praised Arab League efforts to resolve the crisis. Kelly said that the EU was unlikely to declare that Syria was an obstacle to peace in Lebanon, but he indicated that Ireland was concerned about Syrian meddling and was watching Syria's poor human rights record closely (Ref C). Kelly noted that the Government of Ireland was aware of the financial shortfalls of the Tribunal, but that no decision had been made on whether Ireland would contribute additional funds.

Iraq

¶16. (SBU) Kelly noted that Ireland was not planning to reopen its Baghdad mission, which was closed in 1990 at the time of the First Gulf War. However, he pointed out that Ireland contributed over five million euro (\$7.35 million) in humanitarian assistance to Iraq in 2007 (Ref E), and is assisting in the training of Iraqi prison guards.

Pakistan

¶17. (SBU) Kelly said that Ireland firmly supports the large-scale EU mission to monitor the upcoming elections in Pakistan, noting that this mission is a clear signal of the seriousness with which Ireland and the EU regard the need for free and fair elections there.

Sudan/Darfur

¶18. (C) Kelly stated that Ireland is concerned about the Sudanese Government's foot-dragging on Darfur and has noted

DUBLIN 00000048 002 OF 002

unfavorably the slow pace of the deployment of UNAMID. He indicated that Ireland would be amenable to an EU "carrot and stick" approach with the Government of Sudan -- sterner measures coupled with incentives to cooperate. Kelly briefly reviewed Ireland's major commitment to the planned ESDP mission to Chad and the Central African Republic (Ref B).

DRC

¶19. (SBU) Kelly said that EUSEC will continue to engage in security sector reform in the DRC.

Burma

¶19. (C) One touchstone for Ireland in Burma is the regime's cooperation with Gambari (Ref D), Kelly said, adding that waiting until April for the next visit of the UN envoy is not acceptable. Kelly predicted that continued stonewalling of Gambari would compel the EU to take more forceful action to bring the regime into line.

FOLEY